



BUGNION S.p.A. - Consulenza in Proprietà Industriale

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EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  
as PCT IPEA  
D-80298 MÜNCHEN  
GERMANY

Attn. Mr. MARZANO MONTEROSSO

Our Ref: G2475.WO1294

Your ref:

Bologna, 06 February 2006

**Re: International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/003531 filed on 27 October, 2004 in the name of G.D. S.p.A. et al.  
Title: "A DEVICE FOR FEEDING FILTER RODS IN A FILTER TIP ATTACHMENT MACHINE."**

Dear Sirs,

reference is made to the above identified Patent Application and to your Communication dated 03 February 2006 (Form/IPEA/429).

In reply to your invitation, I herewith submit a copy of claim 1 (page 12), amended in a way to overcome the objections according to Art. 34.2(b) and Art. 6.

Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,

Carlo Raoul Maria GHIONI  
c/o BUGNION S.p.A.

Enclosures:

- One copy of amended claim 1 (page 12)

10/577838

IAP17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 MAY 2006

Claims

- 1) A device for feeding filter rods (2) in a filter tip attachment machine, comprising a take-up roller (5) presenting longitudinal flutes (7) each serving to take up and retain a respective filter rod (2), on which the rods (2) are directed **directable** along a predetermined feed path (P) through cross cuttings means (9) and divided **dividable** transversely into plugs (10) before being transferred to staggering means (13), characterized in that the roller (5) comprises means (40) by which to adjust the axial position of the flutes (7).  
10
- 2) A device as in claim 1, comprising at least two first modules (17) affording grooves (24, 25) presented by a central portion of each flute (7), adjustable between positions distanced from and breasted with one another through the agency of the adjustment means (40) in such a way as to create a first gap (58), when in the breasted position, afforded by each flute (7) and accommodating the passage of the cutting means (9).  
15
- 3) A device as in claim 2, wherein each of the first modules (17) affords a second gap (59) accommodating the passage of the cutting means (9).  
20
- 25 4) A device as in claim 2, comprising second modules (20) affording grooves (26, 27) presented by intermediate portions of each flute (7) and capable



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Attn. Mr. MARZANO MONTEROSSO

Our Ref: G2475.WO1294      Your ref:

Bologna, July 28, 2005

Re: International Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/003531 filed on 27 October, 2004 in the name of G.D. S.p.A. et al.  
Title: "A DEVICE FOR FEEDING FILTER RODS IN A FILTER TIP ATTACHMENT MACHINE."

Dear Sirs,

reference is made to the above identified Patent Application and to the Written Opinion (Form PCT/ISA/237) received with Form PCT/ISA/220 dated 11/02/2005.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 as it is considered not clear contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

In particular, the Examiner states that some features in the apparatus claim 1 relate to a method of using apparatus rather than defining the apparatus in terms of its technical features.

Moreover, claim 1 defines elements which do not form part of the claimed subject matter .

The Examiner's objections have been carefully considered.

## ARTICLE 6 PCT- CLARITY

Independent claim 1 has been amended according to the Examiner's opinion.

In detail, claim 1 has been amended deleting all the functional terms introduced in claim 1.

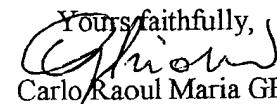


Indeed, it has been deleted from claim 1 the citation “*....on which the rods (2) are directed along a predetermined feed path (P) through cross cuttings means (9) and divided transversely into plugs (10) before being transferred to staggering means (13)*”.

Applicant points out that the cutting means and the staggering means introduced in the citation above mentioned are now removed from independent claim 1. Indeed, as asserted by the Examiner, such technical features are not part of the present invention.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that amended claim 1 is now clear according to Article 6 PCT.

For this reason, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Yours faithfully,  
  
Carlo Raoul Maria GHIONI  
to BGNION S.p.A.

Enclosures:

- One copy of amended claim 1 (page 12)

Claims

- 1) A device for feeding filter rods (2) in a filter tip attachment machine, comprising a take-up roller (5) presenting longitudinal flutes (7) each serving to take up and retain a respective filter rod (2) on which the rods (2) are directed along a predetermined feed path (P) through cross cutting means (9) and divided transversely into plugs (10) before being transferred to staggering means (13), characterized in that the roller (5) comprises means (40) by which to adjust the axial position of the flutes (7).  
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- 4) A device as in claim 2, comprising second modules (20) affording grooves (26, 27) presented by intermediate portions of each flute (7) and capable